

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-20 EB-11 FSI-01 PM-07

INR-10 IO-14 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 DRC-01

DPW-01 PRS-01 OMB-01 SS-20 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /152 W

----- 107078

P R 151020Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2712

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USDEL JEC PARIS UNN

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CIA

DIA

JCS

JUSMAAG

WHITE HOUSE

USA JFKCMA

CINCPAC

CINCPACAF

CO 7 PSYOPS GP

CINCPACFLT

CINCUSAREAC

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AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

ZNE/AMCONSUL CAN THO
AMCONSUL DANANG
AMCONSUL NHA TRANG
DEPCHIEF JUSMAAG UDORN
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USDAO/SAIGON

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 SAIGON 3469/1

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT PFOR ECON VS
SUBJECT: EMBASSY SAIGON'S NORTH VIETN-NAM BI-WEEKLY

BANGKOK ALSO PASS OSA, DEPT ALSO FOR AID/W; CINCPAC FOR POLAD
DOD PRO USAJFKCMA ATTN: ATCS-WL-DSA

NOFORN

SUMMARY:

1. A CONGRESS OF VIETNAMESE WOMEN WAS THE LATEST GATHERING IN THE 63 SERIES (TRADE UNIONS, YOUTH) WHICH BEGAN FOLLOWING THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE'S 22ND PLENARY AND THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MEETING (FEB. 4-9). WHILE THIS PROCESS MIGHT BE EXPECTED TO LEAD UP TO A VWP CONGRESS IN 1974, AS HAS BEEN RUMORED, THERE ARE SEVERAL REASONS WHY IT MAY BE IMPRACTICAL FOR THE DRV LEADERSHIP TO HOLD ONE THIS YEAR. SOMEWHERE IN SOUTH VIETNAM A "CONGRESS OF HEROES" RECENTLY ASSEMBLED 200 VIET CONG WARRIORS.

2. THE "PRG" HAS DENIED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CAI LAY MASSACRE OF THIRTY-TWO CHILDREN.

3. ON THE FOREIGN RELATIONS FRONT THE DRV HAS RETURNED ALL DEAD-IN-CAPTIVITY (DIC) AMERICAN BODIES IT ADMITS HOLDING AND ADVERTISED THIS AS A "UNILATERAL GOODWILL GESTURE" AFTER MONTHS OF SAYING SUCH A STEP MUST DEPEND UPON IMPLEMENTATION OF OTHER PARTS OF THE PARIS AGREEMENTS. THE DRV AND "PRG" SENT NOTES TO THE COUNTRIES WHICH PARTICIPATED IN THE PARIS CONFERENCE ON VIETNAM COMPLAINING OF US AND GVN VIOLATIONS OF PARIS AGREEMENTS AND ASSERTING THEIR OWN GOOD BEHAVIOR. THE DRV HAS RECENTLY HOSTED THE
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ALGERIAN CHIEF OF STATE AND VISITING COMMUNIST PARTY DELEGATIONS FROM ITALY, CUBA, AND JAPAN, AND SIGNED A LONG-TERM AID AGREEMENT WITH BULGARIA. THE DRV AMBASSADOR TO VIENTIANE HAS RETURNED TO THE LAOTIAN CAPITAL AFTER AN ABSENCE OF MANY YEARS.

4. THE ACCREDITATION OF A "PRG " EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY REPRESENTATIVE " TO THE PATHET LAO IN COMMUNIST CONTROL-

LLED LAOTIAN TERRITORY MAY BE THE FIRST STEP IN TRYING TO GET THE
"PRG" RECOGNIZED BY THE NEW PROJECTED LAOTIAN COALITION GOVERNMENT.
END SUMMARY.

I POLICY AND PLANNING
A. DRV WOMEN'S CONFAB.

1. THE FOURTH CONGRESS OF VIETNAMESE WOMEN OPENED IN HANOI ON
MARCH 4. NEARLY 1,000 PERSONS WERE IN ATTENDANCE, INCLUDING SOME
200 FOREIGN OBSERVERS. THE FOREIGN CONTINGENT INCLUDED NATIONAL
DELEGATIONS, AMONG WHOM ONE FROM THE "PRG", AND REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S CONFEDERATION. AS WAS THE
CASE AT THE RECENT TRADE UNION CONGRESS, NO CHINESE DELEGATION
WAS PRESENT BUT A PRC GREETING WAS READ. PARTY FIRST SECRETARY
LE DUAN GAVE A LONG AND SINGULARLY BORING SPEECH DURING WHICH
HE DISCUSSED AMONG OTHER THINGS, NOTHERHOOD AND CHILD REARING
AMONG THE DRV'S "LIBERATED" WOMEN. HE CLAIMED THAT OPPORTUNITIES
FOR WOMEN HAVE IMPROVED IMMEASURABLY SINCE THE COMMUNISTS TOOK
OVER IN THE NORTH AND THAT WOMEN NOW OCCUPY IMPORTANT POSITIONS
IN LOCAL ADMINISTRATION AND PRODUCTION ENTERPRISES (DUAN DID NOT
POINT OUT THAT OF THE 64 CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND CANDIDATES
ONLY THREE ARE WOMEN, NONE OF WHOM SIT ON THE POLITBURO). DUAN
CONCLUDED BY EXHORTING THE WOMEN'S UNION TO MOTIVATE THE FEMALE
POPULACE TO LABOR DILIGENTLY IN FULFILLING THE REGIME'S ECONOMIC
AND DEVELOPMENT PLANS. THE CONGRESS CLOSED ON MARCH 7 WITH THE
AWARD TO THE VIETNAM WOMEN'S MOVEMENT AND THE VIETNAM WOMEN'S
UNION OF THE HO CHI MINH SECOND CLASS MEDAL. FINAL DECLARATION OF
CONGRESS PROMISED CONTINUED AID TO THE "KITH-AND-KIN" SOUTH FOR
SUCCESS OF THE REVOLUTION AND THE PEACEFUL UNIFICATION OF THE
FATHERLAND.

B. PROSPECTS FOR A FOURTH VWP CONGRESS.

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1. ARTICLE 20 OF THE VWP STATUTES STATES THAT A PARTY
CONGRESS OF DELEGATES "USUALLY" IS TO BE HELD EVERY FOUR YEARS,
ALTHOUGH "SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES" MAY JUSTIFY POSTPONEMENT
"DURING A CERTAIN PERIOD." FOR MOST OF THE PAST DECADE, A PARTY
CONGRESS HAS BEEN IMPRACTICAL. HOWEVER, WITH THE RETURN OF PEACE
TO THE NORTH AND WITH DOMESTIC PROPAGANDA OUTPUT PIVOTING UPON THE
OPENING OF THE "FOURTH STAGE OF THE REVOLUTION," THERE WOULD
APPEAR TO BE PRESSURE ON VWP LEADERS TO CONVENE A CONGRESS AS
PART OF THE GENERAL EFFORT (WHICH HAS INCLUDED THE RECENT TRADE
UNION AND WORKMEN'S CONGRESSES AND PREPARATIONS FOR THE YOUTH
UNION CONGRESS) TO EMPHASIZE THE NEW SITUATION IN THE NORTH AND
THE "VICTORY" OF THE DRV. DESPITE THIS PRESSURE AND DESPITE SEV-
ERAL UNOFFICIAL REPORTS OVER THE PAST 18 MONTHS, THAT A CONGRESS
WAS BEING PLANNED THERE HAVE BEEN NO OFFICIAL INDICATIONS FROM
HANOI THAT A CONGRESS IS IMMINENT AND NO VISIBLE PREPARATION FOR

A CONGRESS APPEARS TO BE UNDERWAY.

2. THE APPARENT POSTPONEMENT OF THIS CONGRESS MIGHT INDICATE THAT
THE HANOI LEADERSHIP QS NOT YET ONE HUNDRED PER CENT COMMITTED
TO THE COURSE OF ACTIONS SPELLED OUT IN PLENUM RESOLUTIONS 21 AND
22 AND COULD THEREFORE REVERSE ITS FIE
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USIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USDEL JEC PARIS UNN
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING
CIA
DIA
JCS
JUSMAAG
WHITE HOUSE
USAJFKCMA
CINCPAC
CINCPACAF
CO 7 PSYOPS GP
CINCPACFLT
CINCUSARPAC

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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 SAIGON 3469

III ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

1. ECONOMIC AGREEMENT WITH BULGARIA (SEE PART IV, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

IV EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

A. DRV RETURNS 12 DIED-IN-CAPTIVITY (DIC) BODIES.

1. THE DRV ON MARCH 6 AND 13 RETURNED 12 AND 11 RESPECTIVELY OF THE 23 ACKNOWLEDGED AMERICAN DIC BODIES IT WAS HOLDING, IN CEREMONIES AT GIA LAM AIRPORT, HANOI. THE ACTIONS HAVE BEEN PLAYED IN LOW KEY BY THE DRV AND BLOC MASS MEDIA AND CHARACTERIZED AS "UNILATERAL GOODWILL GESTURES". IN PRIVATE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE DIC RETURN THE DRV HAD CONSISTENTLY ATTEMPTED TO LINK THE RETURN OF THE DIC REMAINS WITH THE GVN-"PRG" PRISONER-OF-WAR EXCHANGE AND OTHER ARTICLES OF THE PARIS ACCORDS. POSSIBLY THE RETURN OF THE REMAINS PRESAGES SOME NEW TACK OR OVERTURE TO THE U.S. BY THE DRV.

B. COMMUNISTS SEND NOTE TO CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS.

1. THE DRV AND "PRG" FOREIGN MINISTRIES HAVE SENT NOTES TO THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON VIET-NAM ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE FINAL ACT OF THAT CONFERENCE. BOTH NOTES CONTAINED THE FAMILIAR LITANY OF COMMUNIST ALLEGATIONS AND NEITHER INTRODUCED ANYTHING NEW OF SUBSTANCE. HANOI'S MISSIVE, RESPONDING APPARENTLY TO THE DEFEAT OF THE DRV'S ATTEMPT TO HAVE THE "PRG" ADMITTED TO THE GENEVA CONFERENCE ON THE LAW OF WAR, EMPHASIZED THAT THE PARIS AGREEMENT RECOGNIZED "THE LEGAL POSITION" OF THE "PRG".

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HANOI'S INTENT HERE, PRESUMABLY, IS TO SUGGEST TO FINAL ACT SIGNATORES THAT, AS UPHOLDERS OF THE AGREEMENT, THEY ARE REQUIRED TO TAKE SOME OFFICIAL COGNIZANCE OF THE "PRG".

C. BOUMEDIENE VISITS VIET-NAM.

1. ALGERIAN CHIEFTAIN HOURI BOUMEDIENE ARRIVED IN HANOI FROM CHINA ON MARCH 5. ACCOMPANIED BY FIVE CABINET MINISTERS, INCLUDING FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTEFlickA, BOUMEDIENE WAS HONORED AT A STATE DINNER HOSTED BY THE DRV'S AGING PRESIDENT TON DUC THANG. THE LATTER'S SPEECH WAS UNEXCEPTIONAL BUT BOUNEDIENE RESERVED SOME ESPECIALLY HARSH WORDS FOR "BIG POWERS" WHICH USE THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES AS "BATTLEFIELDS" TO RESOLVE THEIR "ANTAGONISMS." BOUMEDIENE CONTINUED: "WE HAVE THE DUTY TO ASK OURSELVES ABOUT THE SIGNIFICANCE AND THE REAL IMPORT OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE. IF IT IS TO SHELTER ONLY THE STRONG AND THEIR INTERESTS, TO EXPOSE FURTHER THE PEOPLES OF OUR CONTINENTS" (PASSAGE AS RENDERED BY VNA, SEE FBIS OKINAWA 060935 MARCH 1974). THIS PASSAGE, REPORTED ALSO IN HANOI'S DOMESTIC MEDIA, PROBABLY PARALLELS THE DRV'S OWN THINKING ON "DETENTE" AND ITS EFFECTS ON HANOI'S RELATIONS WITH MOSCOW AND PEKING. BOUMEDIENE'S DEPARTURE ON MARCH 8 WAS MARRED BY THE CRASH OF A NORTH VIETNAMESE SOVIET-BUILT AIRCRAFT WHICH KILLED ABOUT THIRTY PERSONS, AMONG THEM FIFTEEN ALGERIAN JOURNALISTS AND OFFICIALS.

D. ITALIAN, JAPANESE AND CUBAN CP DELEGATIONS VISIT HANOI.

1. AN ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY DELEGATION HEADED BY PIERRO INGRAO, POLITBURO MEMBER, VISITED THE DRV FROM FEB. 27 TO MAR 6. A JAPANESE COMMUNIST PARTY DELEGATION HEADED BY TITSUZO FUMA, CHIEF OF SECRETARIAT, ARRIVED IN HANOI MARCH 9 FOR AN OFFICIAL VISIT. A CUBAN COMMUNIST PARTY AND GOVERNMENTAL DELEGATION, HEADED BY ARMANDO COSTA, CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER, LEFT HANOI ON MARCH 9 AFTER A BRIEF STOPOVER VISIT FOLLOWING A VISIT TO THE PATHET LAO CONTROLLED ZONE IN LAOS.

E. DRV SIGNS ECONOMIC AGREEMENT WITH BULGARIA.

1. A BULGARIAN ECONOMIC DELEGATION HEADED BY MAKO DAKOV, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, WRAPPED UP A
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WEEK-LONG VISIT TO THE DRV ON MARCH 2. ACCORDING TO A RADIO SOFIA REPORT (SEE FBIS VIENNA 040750 MARCH 74) THE DELEGATION SIGNED WITH THE DRV AN ECONOMIC AGREEMENT SETTING THE "BASIC DIRECTIONS" OF BILATERAL COOPERATION THROUGH 1980. THIS IS THE FIRST AID AGREEMENT TO REFER TO SUCH A TIME SPAN AND MAY BE FURTHER INDICATION OF HANOI'S SERIOUSNESS OF PURPOSE IN THE PRESENT EMPHASIS ON ECONOMIC RECONSTRUCTION. AGREEMENTS WERE ALSO INKED REGARDING TRADE AND PAYMENTS DURING 1975. THE BROADCAST STATED THAT THE VALUE OF TRADE WOULD BE "CLOSE" TO SIX MILLION RUBLES IN 1975. (COMMENT: EMBASSY SOFIA BELIEVES REFERENCE TO "NEW STAGE OF COOPERATION" MEANS THAT BULGARIA

EXPECTS TO BE PAID FOR ITS FUTURE ASSISTANCE AND WILL NOT BE WILLING, AS IN THE PAST, TO WRITE OFF HANOI'S DEBTS (SEE SOFIA'S 0303). HANOI MEDIA HAVE NOT BEEN OBSERVED REPORTING ANY DETAILS OF THE AGREEMENTS OR TO HAVE REFERRED TO A "NEW STAGE" OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION. END COMMENT). LIBERATION PRESS AGENCY ANNOUNCED ON MARCH 7 THAT A BULGARIAN "SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE WITH VIETNAM" DELEGATION, HEADED BY GROUNDE ATANASSOVE, HAD RECENTLY VISITED "PRG" TERRITORY AND PRESENTED "A NUMBER OF GOODS".

F. "PRG" ACCREDITS ENVOY TO PATHET LAO; DRV AMBASSADOR RETURNS TO VIENTIANE.

1. LIBERATION RADIO HAS ANNOUNCED THAT ON MARCH 8 THE "PRG'S" "EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY REPRESENTATIVE" HAD PRESENTED HIS "CREDENTIALS" TO THE PATHET LAO (PL) CENTRAL COMMITTEE IN SAM NEUA. COMING AT A TIME WHEN THE PL IS JUST ABOUT TO JOIN A NEW COALITION GOVERNMENT IN LAOS AND THE DRV AMBASSADOR HAS JUST RETURNED TO VIENTIANE AFTER AN ABSENCE OF MANY YEARS, THIS ACTION IS POSSIBLY A PRECURSOR TO A "PRG" ATTEMPT TO BE RECOGNIZED BY THE NEW LAOTIAN GOVERNMENT WHICH WILL HAVE A PL FOREIGN MINISTER.
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